

A NEW SPECIES OF *VERNONIA* FROM BRASIL

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The new species described below was first known to the author nearly two years ago on the basis of an immature specimen which was noted by the collectors as a possible *Barnadesia* because of a general resemblance to some *Mutisieae*. A second specimen was subsequently seen, but the heads were infested with gall insects and the tribe still could not be determined with certainty. Through the kindness of the staff of the Herbario Centro de Pesquisas do Cacau, a duplicate of the first collection has now been seen, and the distinctive species falls within the broad limits of the genus *Vernonia* in the tribe *Vernonieae*.

VERNONIA VIHNAE H. Robinson, sp. nov.

Plantae fruticosae ad 1.5 m altae mediocriter ramosae. Caules nigrescentes subteretes leniter striati dense appresse pilosuli, pilis sessiliter T-formibus. Folia alterna, petiolis 3-10 mm longis superne indistincte demarcatis; laminae ellipticae vel obovatae 4-12 cm longae et 1.8-4.5 cm latae base cuneatae vel acuminatae margine anguste reflexae superne sensim paucem serrulatae apice obtusae vel truncatae dense multo denticulatae vel sub praemorsae supra et subtus epilosae et minute glandulopunctatae leniter exsculptae, nervis secundariis utrinque 4-9 ca. 30-45° ascendentibus non arcuatis. Inflorescentiae terminales subdense corymboso-cymosae pauci-capitatae, bracteis minutis, ramis ultimis 0.8 mm longis. Capitula late infundibulares 15-18 mm alta et ca. 8-10 mm lata; squamae involucri ca. 40 subimbriatae ca. 6-seriatae 4-14 mm longae et 2-3 mm latae plerumque praeter interiores rotundatae et minute puberulo-fimbriatae extus glabrae exteriores subapice prominentiter carnosae umbonatae. Flores ca. 20; corollae rosaceae ca. 17 mm longae, tubis ca. 11 mm longis perangustis superne sensim infundibulares, faucibus 1.0-1.5 mm longis, tubis et faucibus extus glabris, lobis linearibus ca. 5 mm longis et 0.7 mm latis extus sensim dense glandulopunctatis subapice paucem spiculiferis; thecae antherarum ca. 4.3 mm longae; appendices antherarum anguste ovatae ca. 0.7 mm longae et 0.35 mm latae glabrae; basi stylorum breviter obturaculiformes; scapi stylorum in partibus superioribus hispidulis ca. 1 mm longi; rami stylorum ca. 1.5 mm longi argute pilosuli. Achaenia ca. 3.5 mm longa glabra inferne leniter mamillosa; setae pappi ca. 50 interiores 3-9 mm longae apice tenuiores, interiores ad 11 mm longae apice latiores omnino sublaeves vel leniter scabridulæ. Grana pollinis in diametro ca. 50 μ m irregulariter distincte

areolata et spinulifera (near *Lychnophora*-type but larger and with irregular spinulose ridges more sharply defined.

TYPE: BRASIL: Bahia: Ubaitaba-Maraú, C. rosada. Na psamofilia. 13 XII 1967. S.G.da Vinha no. 57 & A.Castellanos (Holo-type, CEPEC; isotype, US). PARATYPE: BRASIL: Bahia: Município de Maraú. BR 030, a 45 km a E de Ubaitaba. Ca. 25-50 m de altitude. Campos. Arbusto, 1,5 m de altura. 27 agosto 1979. S.A.Mori, A.Walther & A.Necker 12812 (US).

The new species is initially distinguishable by the teeth that are concentrated at the rather truncate to slightly retuse apex of the leaf, by the fleshy umbos on the involucral bracts near the tips, and by the poorly differentiated outer pappus. Two of these characters can be seen in both specimens, but floral details cannot be confirmed in the paratype material because of the infestation with some type of gall-insect. The species is unusually distinctive, but seems to be most closely related to *V. crassa* (Vell.) Ekman of Parana and *V. squamulosa* Hook. & Arn. of northern Argentina north to S. Paulo in Brasil. Both of the latter have short-acute leaf apices, simple tips on the involucral bracts, a distinct short squamulose outer pappus, hairs on the achenes, and pubescence on the undersurfaces of the leaves. In *V. crassa* the leaves have a dense cover of tomentum below, while the narrowly elliptical leaves of *V. squamulosa* are only puberulous below.

Another possible relative is represented by a type photograph of *Vernonia retusa* Sch.Bip., nom. nud. (Brasil: Rio das Pedras, 20 Apr. 1826, Sello, Berlin, probably destroyed). Sello's itinerary would place the locality in northern Uruguay or southern Rio Grande do Sul in Brasil. The photograph shows a plant similar to *V. vinhae*, but with more simply retuse leaf tips and no umbos on the involucral bracts.



Vernonia vinhae H. Robinson, Holotype, Herbário Centro de Pesquisas do Cacau (CEPEC), Itabuna, Bahia. Photo by Victor E. Krantz, Staff Photographer, National Museum of Natural History.